

**Transportation Commission Resolution no. 673**

**BRIEFING PAPER**

Prepared for the

**OCTOBER 2005 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Prepared by: Judy Lorenzo, Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Liaison

Reviewed by: Amy Arnis, Strategic Planning & Programming

Approved by: Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff

**PURPOSE:**

The Commission is requested to approve resolution number 673 renaming the Megler Safety Rest Area to Dismal Nitch Safety Rest Area.

**ACTION/OUTCOME:**

The national significance of the Dismal Nitch story will be recognized and shared with the traveling public in an enhanced fashion through this name change and the planned site improvements.

**BACKGROUND:**

Since 1997 the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Transportation Commission have been involved in preparation for the 200th Anniversary of the Expedition of the Corp of Discovery in the observance of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. There is strong local support for this renaming. (see attached letters of support)

**DISCUSSION:**

At the September commission meeting WSDOT staff was directed to do additional research into Joseph G. Megler's genealogy. Staff has completed that work, confirming that he did not have any children. In addition, WSDOT staff conducted a public open house on September 26, 2005 and received positive feedback and support for the naming from the seven participants that attended.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Commission Resolution number 673 in commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in Washington renaming the Megler Safety Rest Area to Dismal Nitch Safety Rest Area.

For further information, contact: Judy Lorenzo, Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Liaison 360-705-7274